

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 041203Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5830

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2272

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: CIVAIR: KLM ISSUE

REF: A. STATE 103810, B. STATE 103811, C. THE HAGUE 2271

1. TRANSPORT MINISTER WESTERTERP HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH (1) PERSONAL MESSAGE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS AND (2) DRAFT NETHERLANDS STATEMENT. WESTERTERP PROPOSES THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO RELEASE TEXTS OF BOTH USG AND GON STATEMENTS AT 1600 DUTCH TIME TUESDAY MAY 6. HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A RESPONSE IT AT ALL POSSIBLE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS THE HAGUE TIME MONDAY MAY 5.

2. MESSAGE FROM MINISTER OF TRANSPORT WESTERTERP TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

I DID APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT REPLY AS A FOLLOW-UP OF OUR DISCUSSION IN AMSTERDAM TON APRIL 30.

THE ELEMENTS WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WORK OUT FOR THE KIND OF 'TRUCE' WHICH WE ENVISAGED ON THAT OCCASION, MAY INDEED CONSTITUTE A BASIS FOR OUR AGREEMENT TO DIS-AGREE.

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OF COURSE I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT A JOINT STATEMENT. HOWEVER, I HAVE UNDERSTANDING FOR THE POINTS WHICH YOU MENTIONED IN YOUR COMMUNICATION TO ME AND THEREFORE I SHALL NOT COMMENT ON THE DRAFT US STATEMENT. INSTEAD I HAVE TRIED TO COVER OUR SIDE OF THE ISSUE IN THE DUTCH STATEMENT.

IN THIS LIGHT I ALSO AGREE TO TREAT THE PAPER WHICH WAS DRAWN UP DURING OUR MEETING AT AMSTERDAM AIRPORT AS AN AIDE-MEMOIRE OF OUR DISCUSSION.

I SEND YOU HERewith THE DRAFT STATEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT, WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE POINTS WHICH YOU HAVE SUGGESTED.

THROUGH YOUR EMBASSY YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT I SHALL BE APPEARING IN THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT ON TUESDAY NEXT, ON WHICH OCCASION I SHALL BE EXPECTED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RAISED REGARDING THIS MATTER. I WOULD, THEREFORE, PROPOSE THAT I RELEASE THE TEXT OF BOTH STATEMENTS AT 1600 HRS NETHERLANDS TIME, MAY 6. SHOULD YOU HAVE A NEED TO RAISE ANY POINT ABOUT THE DUTCH STATEMENT, I SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR COMMENTS IN SUFFICIENT TIME FOR ME TO CONSIDER ON MONDAY, THE 5TH OF MAY, HERE IN HOLLAND.

MAY I ADD AS A PERSONAL NOTE, THAT I HOPE THAT YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT HOLLAND AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THEN FOR A STOPOVER OF MORE THAN 12 HOURS AND AS MY GUEST.

WITH PERSONAL REGARD. END QUOTE.

3. DRAFT NETHERLANDS STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE:

THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT REGRETS THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE, SO FAR, TO ARRIVE AT A FINAL AGREEMENT WITH THE US GOVERNMENT ON THE CAPACITY ISSUE RAISED BY THE US GOVERNMENT UNDER THE BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BE-
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TWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SHARE THE US VIEWS THAT KLM'S CAPACITY ON THE N-ATLANTIC IS OPERATED IN VIOLATION OF THE CAPACITY PROVISIONS OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT. IN PARTICULAR, AS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED REPEATEDLY, THE CARRIAGE OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC VIA THE NETHERLANDS (THE SO CALLED SIXTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC) IS FULLY CONSISTENT

WITH THE CAPACITY CLAUSES OF THE BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, US AIR CARRIERS HAVE A FAIR AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATE SERVICES TO AND VIA THE NETHERLANDS.

THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT IS APPRECIATIVE OF THE US RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KLM TO THE NETHERLANDS. IT VALUES THE US DECISION NOT TO ACT UNILATERALLY AGAINST KLM AND IS PREPARED TO RESUME CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US GOVERNMENT AFTER THE RESULTS OF THE US POLICY REVIEW HAVE BECOME KNOWN.

THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAS NO WISH TO EXACERBATE THE AIR TRANSPORT PROBLEMS ON THE N-ATLANTIC AND HAS REQUESTED KLM, IN VIEW OF THE OVERALL, PRESENT AIR TRANSPORTATION SITUATION ON THE N-ATLANTIC, TO REDUCE ITS BOE-URU FREQUENCIES ON ITS AMSTERDAM-NEW YORK ROUTE FROM 14 TO 11 FREQUENCIES PER WEEK, TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT NOT LATER THAN FOUR WEEKS AFTER THE INCREASE OF CAPACITY BY PAA ON THIS ROUTE AS PLANNED.

THIS REDUCTION OF FREQUENCIES BY KLM WILL BE PUBLISHED AT SHORT NOTICE. KLM'S PUBLISHED SCHEDULES WILL THUS SHOW A REDUCTION OF ITS BOE-747 FREQUENCIES TO NEW YORK AND CHICAGO FROM 21 SERVICES PER WEEK TO 18 SERVICES PER WEEK.

THE MANAGEMENT OF KLM HAS ACCEPTED THIS REDUCTION OF FREQUENCIES, BEING CONSCIOUS OF TRAFFIC DEVELOPMENTS, AND IN THIS CONNECTION WILL, IN CONCERT WITH THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT, FOLLOW CLOSELY THE FUTURE TRAFFIC DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ROUTE. END QUOTE.
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